IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-13. (Cancelled)

14.   (currently amended) A placement/net wiring processing method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

reading out a placement and wiring processing program from a program storage unit;

copying said read out placement and wiring processing program on a storage unit and establishing an environment to execute a program for operating and processing the placement and wiring to design a layout of <u>a</u> piece of an integrated circuit;

executing placement and wiring processing based on said placement and wiring processing program stored in said storage unit, and

modifying a function of said placement and wiring processing program stored in said program storage unit during the execution of said placement and wiring processing.

15.   (currently amended) A placement/net wiring processing method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

copying a placement and wiring processing program read out from a program storage unit and establishing the environment to execute a program for operating and processing the placement and wiring to design a layout of piece of an integrated circuit;

storing execution history information associated with said placement and wiring processing program every time a ~~serious~~ <u>series</u> of placement and wiring processing is executed;

checking the placement and wiring processing operated through said placement and wiring processing program based on said execution history information so stored, and

displaying ~~en~~error information detected by said checking.

16-27. (Cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A placement/net wiring processing method, comprising:

executing placement and wiring processing based on a copy of placement and wiring processing program stored in a storage unit to design a layout an integrated circuit, and

modifying a function of an original of said placement and wiring processing program stored in a program storage unit during the execution of said placement and wiring processing.

29. (new) A placement/net wiring processing method, comprising:

storing an execution history associated with a program to design a layout of placement and wiring of an integrated circuit as a series of placement and wiring processing is executed; and

error checking the placement and wiring processing operated through said placement and wiring processing program based on said execution history information so stored.